

REMARKS

Claims 13, 14, 17-19, and 26-29 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-12, 15-16, and 20-25 are now cancelled. Claims 13, 14, 26, and 29 are now amended. The claim amendments are fully supported by the application as filed and do not present new subject matter. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Claims 1-12 and 20-25 stand withdrawn as being directed to non-elected claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for recognizing Applicant's timely traversal of the restriction (election) requirement.

Applicants maintain that the restriction (election) requirement is not proper. However, Applicants now cancel the withdrawn claims in order to expedite prosecution of this application.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13-15, 17-18 and 26-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kubo et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,195,140). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 13 and 29 are now amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 16. Therefore, Claims 13 and 29 are now in a condition for allowance at least for including the allowable subject matter of Claim 16. Applicants respectfully request that

the Section 102 rejections of Claim 13 and 29 and those claims dependent therefrom be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 26 is now amended to recite, in part and with reference to Figure 16 for exemplary purposes only as the invention includes numerous embodiments, "a light reflecting layer [16] over the base layer [17] ... the light reflecting layer completely covering the flat section of the base layer."

The Kubo et al. reference appears to disclose, with reference to Figure 6, an insulating film layer 19, a reflection electrode region 22 having a metal film 23, and a transmission electrode region 20 having a transparent conductive film 21. The insulating film 19 has a plurality of flat portions and recessed portions. The metal film 23 covers the recessed portions, but only part of the flat portions. An area of the flat portions are covered by the transparent conductive film 21, not the metal film 23. The Kubo et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest that the metal film 23 completely covers the flat portions of the insulating film 19.

The Kubo et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest "a light reflecting layer over the base layer ... the light reflecting layer completely covering the flat section of the base layer," as set forth in amended Claim 26.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this Section 102 rejection of Claim 26.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubo et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,195,140). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 19 is dependent upon Claim 13. As set forth above, Claim 13 is now in a condition for allowance. Therefore, Claim 19 is also in a condition for allowance at least for the reasons set forth above in relation to Claim 13.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this Section 103 rejection of Claim 19.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action states that Claim 16 is allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for recognizing the patentable features of Claim 16. Applicants now amend independent Claims 13 and 29 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 16. Therefore, Claims 13 and 29 are allowable at least for including the allowable subject matter of Claim 16.

Applicants wish to point out that Claim 16 is allowable for numerous reasons in addition to those set forth by the Office Action.

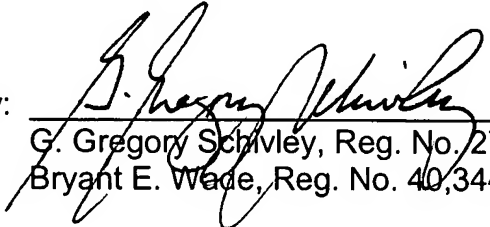
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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